GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
POWER
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3229
ANSWERED ON:19.12.2008
TRIPPING OF TRANSMISSION LINES
Singh Shri Sugrib

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the transmission lines frequently trip during winter session in northern parts of the country;

(b) if so, whether the Power Grid Corporation of India Ltd. (PGCIL) proposes to clean their transmission lines by using choppers in the country;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether PGCIL has signed any agreement with Pawan Hans to hire their choppers for the purpose;

(e) if so, the details of the terms and conditions thereof; and

(f) the extent to which the lines tripping problem is likely to be solved by using such choppers?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE & INDUSTRY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH)

(a) to (f) : There had been incidents of transmission line trippings in Northern Region, due to heavy fog & pollution during the winter season.

The cleaning of insulators with the help of Helicopter was proposed to be undertaken by Power Grid Corporation of India Limited (PGIL) on 19 critical lines. While cleaning of insulators in four (4) transmission lines has been completed, the cleaning in the remaining lines is scheduled to be completed upto end of February, 2009. The details are given at Annex.

It is informed by Power Grid Corporation that that an MOU has been signed with Pawan Hans Helicopters Limited on 22nd October, 2008. As per the Agreement, Pawan Hans has provided its one Bell Helicopter to PGCIL along with hot line washing equipment and crew taken from M/s. Heliwing International Limited, New Zealand for spray washing of insulators of transmission lines of PGCIL for a period of 5 months at an approx. total cost of Rs.7.50 crores.

The main cause for the tripping of the power transmission lines during winter season in Northern Region are high levels of atmospheric pollution and humidity during the night hours during this season and condensation of moisture on the polluted insulators. The cleaning / washing of insulators under hot line condition using helicopter would reduce the fog related tripping of the transmission lines particularly in areas where approach of truck mounted washers / telescopic boom washers is not feasible or where due to high pollution and its faster accumulation, the speed of operation so demands.